

The Printed Page



The first issue of the ECAD's newsletter

The Deaf Herald/Courtesy of the Eastern Canada Association of the Deaf (Amherst, N.S.)

For many years, the written word has played a significant role in the Deaf community. Whether in the form of a school newspaper, a newsletter from a religious organization, or a magazine produced by one of the many deaf organizations throughout Canada, these publications have provided their readers with information, companionship, and a sense of belonging to both a local, and a larger, “national” Deaf community. It would be impossible to describe in this book all of the publications that have existed within Canada’s Deaf community over the past two centuries. Those included below have been chosen either because they are among the most popular or, in some cases, because they have already begun to fade into obscurity.

Little Paper Family Publications

Almost from the time residential schools for deaf students began to be established until sometime in the mid-1960s (when career training shifted to other fields), most deaf boys received training in the skills necessary to succeed in the printing trade — one of the most lucrative and popular career areas open to deaf men.¹ Many residential schools in the United States and Canada produced their own newspapers, which, as a group, were called the “Little Paper Family.” The Little Paper Family (LPF) publications served several vital functions. They gave the

students in the print shop practical experience producing a printed product; they provided the children at the school with a forum in which to display their writings; they encouraged reading among the students and the other subscribers; and, perhaps most important, they served as a link between the school, its alumni, and the growing Deaf community.



An 1896 photograph of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb's print shop, a typical printing department at a residential school for deaf students

The Canadian Mute/Gallaudet University Archives

The term "Little Paper Family" was coined by a deaf writer to describe publications such as newspapers and magazines that were produced by residential schools, as opposed to those produced by (or for) deaf people through private, independent printing companies. Many of the LPF publications had deaf editors, whose work helped preserve a valuable record of the histories of residential schools and the Deaf communities.

In the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, the LPF publications attained a high degree of excellence in providing an exchange of information between residential schools and the community. The most common contents were school news items; announcements of engagements, weddings, births, and deaths; descriptions of a variety of events in the community; news of organizations such as the literary societies or local sports groups; excerpted pieces from other publications in the Little Paper Family; and what could be called "polite gossip."

The earliest known North American publication of the Little Paper Family was *The Deaf Mute*. This small monthly periodical, of which only three are known to still exist, was produced in 1849 by the students and staff of the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and the Blind, in Raleigh.² Before the turn of the century, other schools — both in the U.S. and Canada — had begun producing their own monthly, weekly, or even daily publications. For many Canadian subscribers, receiving one of these issues was like having an old and valued friend drop by for a visit. Through the editorials, articles, and informal and chatty inserts, readers were able to keep up with the ordinary — and sometimes extraordinary — events in the lives of their deaf friends. From afar they could celebrate in announcements of weddings and births, chuckle over stories of fishing trips and automobile excursions, be concerned when notified of illness, and grieve at the death of beloved friends whom they may not have seen since their school days.

The Earliest Canadian Publication

The earliest known Canadian LPF publication was the *Côte St. Antoine Times and Canadian Deaf-Mute Chronicle*, which appeared in 1874. This publication was produced by the students at the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec. The school's deaf founder and principal, Thomas Widd, taught the printing classes, which had been introduced into the curriculum in 1872. The school's monthly publication was printed on tinted paper and focused on "deaf-mute matters."³ It is unclear how long this paper was produced, but it was probably discontinued sometime between the date the school settled into its new buildings on Decarie Road and became known as the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1878) and the year that Widd took a one-year leave of absence (1882-1883).

The Tuque

The next publication to appear on the scene also came from the Mackay Institution in Montréal. This was *The Tuque*, the first issue of which appeared in April 1890. It gave the pupils "much pleasure, especially to read our first little efforts at journalism."⁴ Circulation was limited to the students, staff, and parents of children attending the school. No remaining copies of *The Tuque* have been found, and it is assumed that no more than two or three issues were printed.

The Canadian Mute

The third Little Paper Family newspaper published in Canada was *The Canadian Mute*, with the premier edition dated February 15, 1892. This eight-page, semi-monthly periodical (11 inches by 16 inches) made its appearance at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville. When the lengthy name of the Ontario Institution was changed to the Ontario School for the Deaf in 1913, the word *Mute* was dropped from the paper's banner. It thus became *The Canadian*.

Publication of *The Canadian Mute* began largely through the efforts of William Nurse (b. June 15, 1854; d. June 12, 1923), a deaf instructor of shoemaking at the Ontario Institution and co-founder (in 1886) of the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association (now the Ontario Association of the Deaf). Its first editor (1892-1894) was adult-deafened James Bell Ashley (b. circa 1841; d. Apr. 30, 1894), who had taught at the school since 1883. After Ashley's death in 1894, the editorship passed into the hands of hearing staff, where it remained for nearly a century. According to the February 15, 1892 editorial, *The Canadian Mute* was established so that "a number of our pupils may learn type-setting ... second, to furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf-mute subscribers; and third, to be a medium of communication between the school and parents, and friends of pupils, now in the Institution, the hundreds who were pupils at some time or other in the past, and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf of our land."⁵ Duncan Angus Morrison (b. Apr. 8, 1856; d. Apr. 1, 1911), who was listed as "Pupil No. 1" on the registry book

THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Publishes for Special Printing to young People of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville.

VOL. I.

BELLEVILLE, FEBRUARY 15, 1892.

NO. 1.

INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF & DUMB

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO.
CANADA.



Director of the Institution in Charge
THE HON. G. C. HENNING.

Government Inspector
H. W. T. KELMARTEN.

Officers of the Institution:
W. W. WATSON, Principal.
W. W. WATSON, Deputy Principal.
W. W. WATSON, Secretary.
W. W. WATSON, Treasurer.

Teachers:
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., English and Mathematics.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., French and Latin.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Music and Drawing.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Physical Education.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Moral Instruction.

Non-Resident Teachers:
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., French and Latin.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Music and Drawing.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Physical Education.
M. D. CROFTON, M.A., Moral Instruction.

Musicians:
W. W. WATSON, Organist.
W. W. WATSON, Pianist.
W. W. WATSON, Violinist.
W. W. WATSON, Cellist.

Officers of the Province of Ontario:
The Hon. G. C. HENNING, Minister of Education.
The Hon. J. D. COLLETT, Minister of Lands and Agriculture.
The Hon. W. M. MITCHELL, Minister of Finance.

Members of the Board of Directors:
The Hon. G. C. HENNING, President.
The Hon. J. D. COLLETT, Vice-President.
The Hon. W. M. MITCHELL, Secretary.

Members of the Council:
The Hon. G. C. HENNING, Chairman.
The Hon. J. D. COLLETT, Secretary.
The Hon. W. M. MITCHELL, Treasurer.

Grand Trunk Railway
Fares and Rates.
Travelling by Rail.

POETRY

Syllabus
I have and the world with me
I have and the world with me
I have and the world with me
I have and the world with me

POETRY

A Descriptive Poem.
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set

rest, Tom continued to keep the plow
rest, Tom continued to keep the plow
rest, Tom continued to keep the plow
rest, Tom continued to keep the plow

POETRY

A Descriptive Poem.
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set

The Views of Deaf-Mutes.
I need not the more of words and
I need not the more of words and
I need not the more of words and
I need not the more of words and

POETRY

A Descriptive Poem.
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set
The sun had just set

The first edition

The Canadian Mute/Courtesy of the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf (Belleville, Ont.)

when the Ontario Institution opened on October 20, 1870, was also the first to subscribe to the paper.⁶ The original subscription price was 50 cents per year.

The paper served as a way to raise deaf and hearing people's awareness of the accomplishments of members of the Deaf community. For example, the October 1, 1903 issue (vol. 11, no. 12) devoted several pages to what its editors called "Sketches of Prominent Deaf Workers of the Province." Careful reading of this article revealed not only facts about the individuals, but also the identity of some of the leading organizations within the Deaf community — including those designed to help less fortunate deaf people as well as those designed to enlighten and entertain. An example of these organizations can be found in the write-up on Richard C. Slater, Toronto correspondent for *The Canadian Mute* for several years and publisher of *The Silent World*, an independent Canadian publication for, by, and about deaf people. Slater was involved in such organizations as the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association, the Maple Leaf Reading and Debating Club of Toronto, the Ontario Deaf-Mute Mission Board (and also served on its Mission Fund committee), the Toronto Deaf-Mute Sick Benefit Society, and the Toronto Deaf-Mute Athletic Association. His hearing daughter was an officer in the Dorcas Society, a women's group affiliated with the Deaf-Mute Mission Board.

Various columns in *The Canadian* were written by deaf correspondents in Ontario towns (and a few places elsewhere in Canada as well). Examples of these columns include "Kitchener Gleanings," "Barrie News," "Toronto Topics," and "Maritime News." General news was included in such columns as "Convention Notes" and "Wedding Bells." (These "deaf news" columns gradually disappeared during the 1920s and 1930s as the focus of the hearing-dominated school shifted away from Deaf community news — this shift coincided with the decline in the number of deaf teachers at the school. However, most of the information reappeared in the issues of *The OAD News*, a publication by the Ontario Association of the Deaf that began in October 1941.)

In 1904, the school sent all of its existing copies of *The Canadian Mute* from December 15, 1901 to December 15, 1903 to Toronto to be bound into volumes. Sadly, they were all destroyed in a \$10-million fire that year.⁷ The school then sought copies of these issues from the readers to replace the ones that had been burned. The Diamond Jubilee edition of *The Canadian* was printed in April 1931. Although an excellent issue, it contained a number of errors in its article on the history of deaf education in Ontario and other Canadian provinces.

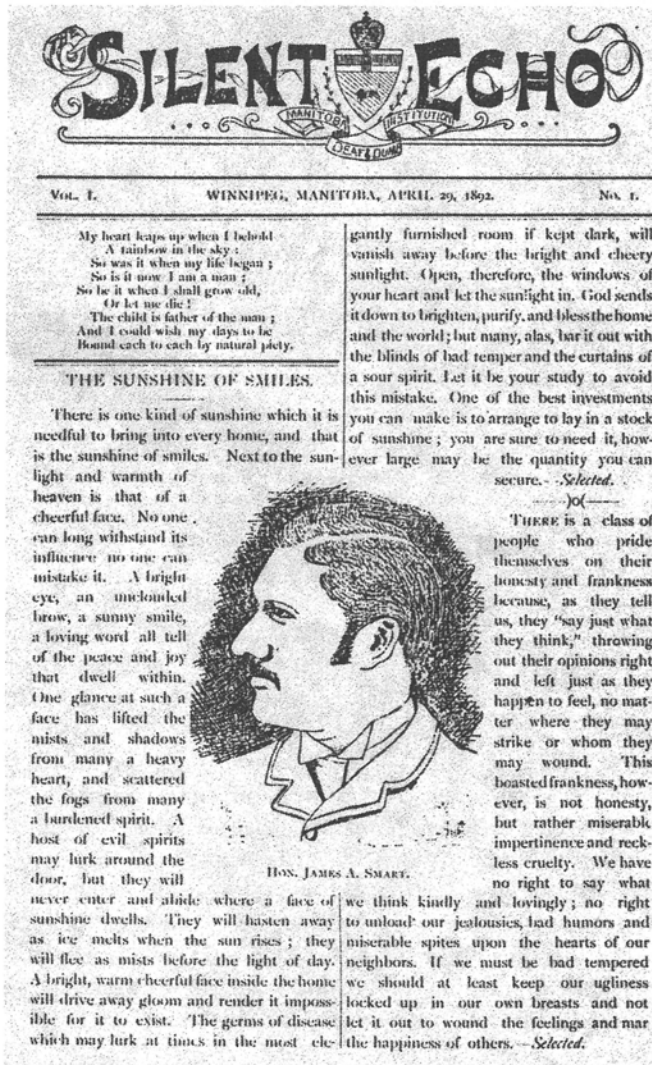
The Canadian became a monthly publication when the first Model 5 Linotype was purchased during the 1933-1934 school year. When World War II began, the air force took over the school buildings, and the print shop was closed from 1941 to 1945. During this time, a mimeographed form of *The Canadian* was prepared and distributed by the school's staff. The paper changed radically from tabloid to magazine format during the 1968-1969 school year. The "hot-medal" Linotypes were replaced in 1975 with Compugraphic photo-typesetting equipment. In 1979, students began to use "floppy disks" with the typesetting MDT350 keyboards. The composition area was later upgraded with the arrival of a new MCS10 typesetting system in 1984 and the donation of six new IMB-compatible computers by the Lions Club in 1986.

The last publication of *The Canadian* in its standard format was the Spring 1991 issue (just one year short of the periodical's 100th anniversary). Enrolment at the school was declining, and there were not enough staff and students in the graphic arts department to be able to keep up with the increased requests for other printing jobs while regularly producing *The Canadian* as well. In April 1993, the logo reappeared on the front of a 10-inch by 13-inch envelope folder, which contained a collection of separate newsletters produced by the various components of the school (including the elementary school newsletter and *The OSD-SJW Alumni News*, the official publication of the Ontario School for the Deaf/Sir James Whitney Alumni Association). This new format was chosen as a cost-cutting measure (the postage for one envelope was less than the cost of distributing each newsletter individually). In addition, the new format was designed to increase circulation of the various newsletters, not only to departments and programs within the school, but also to outside organizations who have an interest in the education of deaf children.

The Silent Echo / The Echo / The Manitoba Echo

The Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg started publishing an eight-page monthly paper called the *The Silent Echo* on April 29, 1892.⁸ It was printed “to afford the children a means of making practical use of the knowledge they are receiving and to establish an active factor in the work of the school room, furnishing as it will a medium for the expression of thought and cultivating a taste for reading.”⁹

The idea of publishing a school newspaper was conceived by the journalistic mind of Duncan Wendell McDermid, the hearing superintendent of the Manitoba Institution (1890-



My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky;
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!
The child is father of the man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

THE SUNSHINE OF SMILES.

There is one kind of sunshine which is needful to bring into every home, and that is the sunshine of smiles. Next to the sunlight and warmth of heaven is that of a cheerful face. No one can long withstand its influence no one can mistake it. A bright eye, an unclouded brow, a sunny smile, a loving word all tell of the peace and joy that dwell within. One glance at such a face has lifted the mists and shadows from many a heavy heart, and scattered the fogs from many a burdened spirit. A host of evil spirits may lurk around the door, but they will never enter and abide where a face of sunshine dwells. They will hasten away as ice melts when the sun rises; they will flee as mists before the light of day. A bright, warm cheerful face inside the home will drive away gloom and render it impossible for it to exist. The germs of disease which may lurk at times in the most elegantly furnished room if kept dark, will vanish away before the bright and cheery sunlight. Open, therefore, the windows of your heart and let the sunlight in. God sends it down to brighten, purify, and bless the home and the world; but many, alas, bar it out with the blinds of bad temper and the curtains of a sour spirit. Let it be your study to avoid this mistake. One of the best investments you can make is to arrange to lay in a stock of sunshine; you are sure to need it, however large may be the quantity you can secure. —Selected.

—)C—

THERE is a class of people who pride themselves on their honesty and frankness because, as they tell us, they “say just what they think,” throwing out their opinions right and left just as they happen to feel, no matter where they may strike or whom they may wound. This boasted frankness, however, is not honesty, but rather miserably impertinence and reckless cruelty. We have no right to say what we think kindly and lovingly; no right to unload our jealousies, bad humors and miserable spite upon the hearts of our neighbors. If we must be bad tempered we should at least keep our ugliness locked up in our own breasts and not let it out to wound the feelings and mar the happiness of others. —Selected.

HON. JAMES A. SMART.

Original appearance

Courtesy of the Manitoba School for the Deaf (Winnipeg, Man.)

1909). In late 1891, he initiated a printing and engraving department at Bannatyne Castle, where the school had been temporarily located after a fire damaged the original facility. For two years (1891-1893), Angus Alexander McIntosh (b. Nov. 20, 1860; d. Jan. 6, 1930), a deaf employee at the Winnipeg newspaper, *The Manitoba Daily Free Press*, and a graduate of

the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (1877-1879), came to the school after he got off work in the evening to serve as the printing instructor. He is credited with preparing and publishing the first editions of *The Silent Echo*. Because he worked full-time during the day, however, McIntosh found it difficult to continue teaching nightly at the Manitoba Institution. He resigned after declining the offer of a full-time position on the teaching staff. His successor was Joseph Reginald Cook (b. Feb. 17, 1868; d. Aug. 14, 1918), an alumnus of the Ontario Institution (1882-1888), who was “telegraphed for” and came to Winnipeg in 1893 from Chatham, Ont.¹⁰ For the next 25 years (1893-1918), Cook was the school’s printing instructor and editor-publisher of *The Silent Echo*. During Cook’s editorship, the publication began using “home-made engravings to illustrate its pages, the school having recently introduced photo-engraving as a part of its curriculum.”¹¹ Shortly after Cook died, Dean Ellsworth Tomlinson (b. May 13, 1886; d. Feb. 15, 1954) became the third deaf editor (1918-1940). Tomlinson was a graduate of the Minnesota Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (1899-1903) in Faribault and Gallaudet College (B.Sc., 1903-1908). He joined the Manitoba School academic staff in 1913.

In 1913, the original name on its banner was changed from *The Silent Echo* to *The Echo*. With the publication of the 35th edition in October 1927, the paper was renamed *The Manitoba Echo*. A special issue was printed in April 1939 to celebrate the Manitoba School’s 50th anniversary (1889-1939). After 48 con-



Dean E. Tomlinson

The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

tinuous years of publication (1892-1940), *The Manitoba Echo* ceased publication when the Manitoba School was closed during World War II. The school reopened in 1965, but without its monthly LPF publication.

The Institution News / The School News

Shortly before the turn of the century, printing was introduced at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. Despite their used (and sometimes cranky) machine run by foot power rather than steam or electricity, the older pupils managed to learn the trade quickly. On December 5, 1898, they began publishing their monthly Little Paper Family newspaper, *The Institution News*, covering items of interest to the students and the Deaf community, news about teachers and administrators of the school, and the like. Its appearance was greatly improved in 1902 when four new cases of type were purchased from Toronto.

The Institution News was renamed *The School News* when its October 1, 1914 edition was issued. Subscription rates started at 50 cents for nine months (September to June). A printing press was donated to the school in September 1917 by Capt. Lovett Hines, the hearing father of a deaf student named George (who later graduated in 1924). As a result of the Halifax Explosion on December 6, 1917, the school building was closed for repairs, and the printing of *The School News* was suspended for two years (1918 and 1919). On January 1, 1920, this LPF publication reappeared with new volume numbers. Its mission was “(1) to keep parents of pupils, friends of the School, and old pupils in touch with the life of the School; (2) to encourage the pupils to write and read; and (3) to give the boys instruction in printing, with the hope that some of them may take up the trade as a means of livelihood.”¹²

From October 1920 to December 1921, no issues of the paper were published due to the absence of a printing instructor. Once a new instructor was hired, however, *The School News* was continuously printed for the next 39 years (1922-1961). Some of the early regular columns were “Items of Interest,” “Girls’ Items,” “Boys’ Items,” “School Notes” (or “News About the School”), “New Pupils,” “Adult Deaf Notes” (or “News of the Adult Deaf”), and “The Forrest Club for the Adult Deaf” (renamed the Halifax Association of the Deaf in 1944). The last issue of the paper appeared in May-June 1961, after which the Halifax School ended its 104 years of provincial operation (1857-1961) within the city.

L’Ami des Sourds-Muets

In Montréal, Québec, Joseph-Alfred Bousquet had a dream of starting a publication for francophone deaf Canadians. He was an active member of the French Deaf community and president (1906-1907) of Cercle Saint-François de Sales (which became Centre de Loisirs et du Service Social in 1949, and Centre des Loisirs des Sourds de Montréal in 1965 [CLSM, as it is known today]). In 1907, Bousquet proposed that the organization start a small newsletter.¹³ Its first issue, under the title

L’Ami des Sourds-Muets (“The Friend of the Deaf-Mutes”), was printed in March 1908, with Stanislas Giroux as its first deaf editor (1908-1933).

L’Ami des Sourds-Muets was printed monthly (and entirely in French) at the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (Institution for Catholic Deaf and Dumb Males) in Montréal. Its purpose was “to serve as a link between scattered members of the great family of Deaf-Mutes,” particularly in the province of Québec.¹⁴ Photographs and news of students and teachers in the school, former teachers and graduates, benefactors, the religious Deaf community (such as the Oblats de Saint-Viateur), special events, and other topics of interest were well documented in its pages over the years. In January 1958, the format of the publication changed to 12 pages. With this issue, the word “Muets” was dropped from the title.

The last publication of *L’Ami des Sourds* was the May-June 1975 issue. Several factors contributed to its demise, including changes in the school’s structure that resulted in the transfer of the senior boys to L’Ecole Polyvalente Lucien Pagé in March 1975. In addition, several other publications with similar interests and audiences had appeared on the scene. These included *Le Penser du Sourd* (“The Thoughts of the Deaf”) by CLSM, *ENTENDRE* (“HEARING”) by AQEPA (Association du Québec pour Enfants avec Problèmes Auditifs [Québec Association for Children with Auditory Problems]), and *Chronique* by Montréal’s Club Abbé de l’Épée. As the older subscribers to *L’Ami* died and others transferred their allegiance to these newer publications, the Little Paper Family circulation of *L’Ami des Sourds* decreased to the point of ending its 67 years of publication (1908-1975).

The Totem Pole

The Totem Pole was the official publication of the British Columbia School for the Deaf in Vancouver (renamed Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in 1955). The first edition appeared in June 1935. The purpose of the newspaper was threefold: “(1) to stimulate and motivate English composition, (2) to furnish the students with interesting reading material, and (3) to serve as a medium between school and parents.”¹⁵ A page devoted to alumni news first appeared in the December 1955 issue. Further information on its history from 1955 to the last issue on record (34 [no. 2] [June 1969]) could not be found in the school’s archives or elsewhere. In 1972, the publication re-appeared in a newsletter format, and was published periodically until the Jericho Hill Provincial School was absorbed by School District No. 41 in Burnaby, B.C. in January 1991.

Mackay Bulletin

Eighteen volumes of the *Mackay Bulletin* (1942-1960) were printed by the students at the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal. This Little Paper Family publication was made possible when the school received printing equipment donated by Anna H. (née Mackay) Loring, a hearing board member (1913-1951) and relative of Joseph Mackay (benefactor of the school that bears his name). The paper’s

contents included brief excerpts from other schools and/or organizations, articles of interest, and such columns as "Alumni News," "Montreal Deaf Association News," "The Mackay Homecraft Studio," "Montreal Items About the Deaf," "Montreal Tidbits," "Mackay School Graduates," and "Mackay Literary Society." Its demise is said to have coincided with the retirement of principal Melvin Scott Blanchard (b. May 22, 1904; d. Nov. 8, 1975), a hearing person who had edited the paper for 18 years.

The New Scotian / The Maritimer

With the closing of the School for the Deaf in Halifax in 1961 and the opening that same year of the new Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf (later the Special Education Authority — Resource Centre for the Hearing-Impaired) in Amherst, N.S., a new publication was needed. Called *The New Scotian*, this bi-monthly Little Paper Family newsletter first appeared in October 1962. It was renamed *The Maritimer* in the spring of 1977 to represent the four Atlantic provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland) that the Interprovincial School served at that time.

Changes in Recent School Publications

By reading the early LPF publications, as well as those of the general Deaf community, it is possible to piece together the birth, growth, and — in some cases — the eventual demise of schools, organizations, and activities vital to deaf Canadians. Although most schools for deaf students still produce some sort of newsletter or newspaper, their format and purpose have changed over the years. What were once student- and alumni-oriented articles and news items are now aimed at a broader audience, such as parents, friends, legislators, and the general public. The items are often more "politically correct" and much less personal than the "gossip" and "newsy" information contained in the older publications. As a result, they are often not as useful for historians and others interested in the day-to-day lives, interests, and activities of the people who attended these institutions.

Publications Of, For, And By Deaf Canadians

Before the turn of the century, regional Canadian publications of, for, and by deaf people were found primarily in Ontario. Examples include *The Silent World*, *The Silent Nation*, *The Canadian Silent Observer*, and *The Deaf Canadian*. As other provinces began to develop their own Deaf communities, publications from outside Ontario began to appear as well.

The Silent World

Possibly the earliest journal of, for, and by deaf people ever



First edition (1879)

The Silent World/Gallaudet University Archives

to be published in Canada was *The Silent World*, the first issue of which appeared on December 1, 1879 in Toronto, Ont.

A deaf businessman named Richard C. Slater (b. 1849; d. Aug. 15, 1921) independently published *The Silent World* ("a journal devoted to the interests of the Deaf and Dumb") on the 1st and 15th of each month in a print shop he owned at 61 Robert Street.¹⁶ A native of Galt, Ont. who was deafened at the age of seven, Slater was a product of the Upper Canada and Hamilton Institutions for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Toronto and Hamilton, Ont. respectively. Subscriptions to the paper first cost 50 cents per year and later increased to \$1.00.

Slater and his staff were encouraged by the paper's success during its first year and — beginning with the January 1, 1881 issue — revised the format and increased *The Silent World* from four to eight pages. The publication included articles on a variety of topics of interest to deaf readers, including news from such cities as Belleville, Montréal, and Toronto, news from Kendall Green (which included Canadians attending the National Deaf-Mute College [now Gallaudet University]), interesting facts (not always related to deaf people), reprints from other publications, minutes from the meetings of local literary societies, and essays. The paper also occasionally included historical sketches of prominent deaf people and others connected with the education of deaf people in Canada, the United States, and Europe. To help offset the cost of printing, the

paper sold advertising space in its issues. Interest in the paper began to wane in 1882 and *The Silent World* ceased publication that year (the November 15, 1882 issue is the last known to have been printed).

The Silent Nation

The second known publication of, for, and by deaf people in Canada was *The Silent Nation*. This semi-monthly journal, which first made its appearance on August 1, 1885, claimed to be “the only deaf and dumb journal published in Canada.”¹⁷

The Silent Nation was meticulously edited and printed by Norman Vickers Lewis (b. Mar. 27, 1852; d. Nov. 9, 1934), a deaf



The first issue

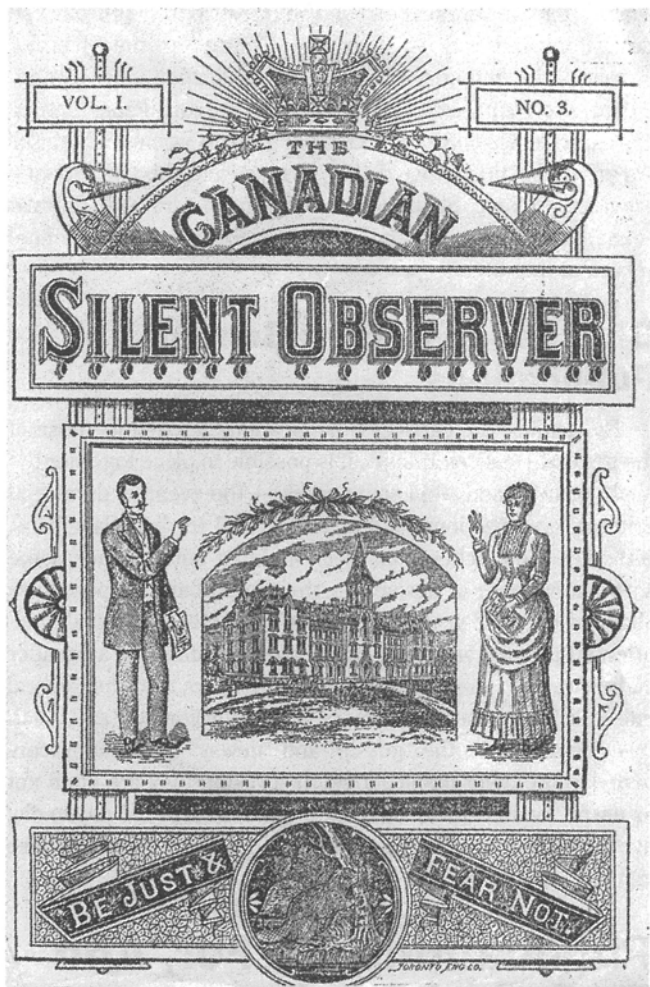
The Silent Nation/Gallaudet University Archives

man who owned a small printing enterprise at 145 Sydenham Street in Toronto. The banner on the front page was beautifully designed and engraved by Charles Edmund Wilson (b. Mar. 15, 1848; d. June 6, 1913), a deaf artist and draughtsman who had moved to Toronto from the small hamlet of Richmond, Québec, about 80 kilometres east of Montréal. Tutored at home by his hearing mother, Wilson came to the city to work for the Toronto Engraving Company, a large firm owned by Frederick Bridgen, a deaf businessman. *The Silent Nation* seems to have had a short life; there are no traces of it beyond the September 1886 issue. It is believed that the publication ceased that fall when Lewis moved to the warmer climate of Los Angeles, Calif. for the benefit of his deaf wife's health.

The Canadian Silent Observer

In 1888, Samuel Thomas Greene and William Nurse, two deaf teachers at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville, joined forces to start *The Canadian Silent Observer*, appointing themselves as editors. *The Canadian Silent Observer* was published semi-monthly by Richard C. Slater, a deaf printer in Toronto who for three years also published *The Silent World*.¹⁸

The first edition of *The Canadian Silent Observer*, an eight-page issue, rolled off the press on February 1, 1888. Single copies were sold for 10 cents; a yearly subscription cost \$1.00. Greene and Nurse decided that the contents should be written and selected “without



The engraved pictures show the Ontario Institution building and the unexplained letters “H” and “W” of the one-hand alphabet

The Canadian Silent Observer/Gallaudet University Archives

particular attention to rhetorical diction or meaningless phrases,” as well as with a minimum of synonyms and idioms of the English language.¹⁹ Their object was to use simple terms and familiar words that the majority of deaf readers could easily follow to read about ideas, incidents, and events. The last known issue was dated May 15, 1889. No printed explanation for its demise has been found.

After *The Canadian Silent Observer* ceased publication, deaf people in the central and eastern provinces of Canada had no regional publications of their own, except for *The Deaf Canadian* (1912-1915). But news about Ontario, Québec, and the four Atlantic provinces could be found in such American publications as *The Silent Worker* and the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal*, and in Little Paper Family publications printed by Canadian and American schools for the deaf. It was not until the mid-1930s that another regional publication (*The WCAD News*) appeared, this time in Western Canada.

The Gospel Light

One of the earliest, if not the first, religious publication of, for, and by the anglophone deaf was *The Gospel Light*, an "organ of the Toronto Mission to the Deaf."²⁰ The first issue appeared in January 1908, and the last known copy was the June 1917 edition. Publication ceased following the death of Frederick Brigden (b. Apr. 20, 1841; d. Apr. 16, 1917), a deaf businessman and superintendent of the Toronto and Ontario Missions to the Deaf, who had originated and edited this monthly paper.

The Deaf Canadian

The first issue of *The Deaf Canadian* ("an independent journal published in the interests of the Deaf of Canada") appeared in Toronto on June 5, 1912.²¹ Its founder and editor-in-chief was George William Reeves (b. Apr. 25, 1876; d. Sept. 12, 1953), a graduate of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1885-1894). A native of Lindsay, Ont., Reeves was also an issuer of marriage licenses in Toronto.²² On July 10, 1907, he married the former Eva Annie Zingg (b. Jan. 25, 1869; d. Mar. 9, 1955) of Wingham, Ont. She had lost her hearing at six months of age and later attended the Ontario Institution as well (1881-1887).²³

Employed as an ad compositor at Toronto's MacLean Publishing Company, Reeves edited *The Deaf Canadian* after his regular working hours and on weekends. Deaf correspondents from different towns and cities across Canada and the United States sent in news about former students of the Ontario Institution. These news items were printed under such column headings as "Personal Paragraphs," "Toronto Topics," "Galt Gleamings," "Peterborough Items," "Ottawa Jottings," "Brantford News," "Wedding Bells," "London Locals," "Mission Notes," "Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.," "Montreal Tidings," "Alberta Jottings," and "Detroit Doings." Information about deaf people and their activities in the Maritime provinces was also included in the paper under columns entitled either the "Maritime News" or "Maritime Memorandums."

The last issue of *The Deaf Canadian* was dated September 1, 1915. Reeves had to suspend its publication due to a lack of cash flow from subscriptions. He turned his interest to other activities such as the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf.²⁴ Fifty-seven years later, in 1972, *The Deaf Canadian* was revived by The Deaf Canadian Limited, a newly formed company in Calgary, Alta. The new owner, editor, and publisher was David Cecil Charles Burnett (b. Sept. 21, 1940), an alumnus of the

Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon (1947-1958). His deaf wife, the former Lynnette Rae Haynes (b. Aug. 25, 1954), was the magazine's manager for advertising and subscription for 11 years (1972-1983). She attended the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton (1959-1972).

The first issue of the reborn *Deaf Canadian* was dated September-October 1972. All of the editors have been deaf men. These included David Burnett (1972-1974, 1976-1979, and 1982-1983), Clifton Francis Carbin of St. Albert, Alta. (and later Richmond, B.C.) (1974-1976), and Roger John Carver (b. Sept. 11, 1948) of Carvel, Alta. (1979-1982).

In 1975, *The Deaf Canadian* was taken over by a newly formed, non-profit educational and literary organization called the Deaf Canadian Readers' Association. Burnett was the founder and publisher of the association, which was located in Calgary, Alta. Under this management, the style of *The Deaf Canadian* found in previous issues remained essentially the same, but its publishing schedule changed to quarterly, and the numbering system started over again. The first edition of the new magazine was Spring-Summer 1975. Two years later, *The Deaf Canadian* returned to bi-monthly publication, and in 1979, switched to monthly publication. Unlike its predecessor of the 1910s, one of the objectives of the new version of *The Deaf Canadian* was "to stimulate interest in and appreciation of the works of Canadian deaf writers, artists, designers, poets and other related positions."²⁵ A wide range of articles — some controversial — appeared on such topics as education (especially total communication versus oralism), deaf sports, interpreter services, human rights, mental health, vocational rehabilitation, teletypewriters, American Sign Language, and other related subjects. The last edition of *The Deaf Canadian* was published in December 1983.

The WCAD News / The Deaf Reporter

The first issue of *The WCAD News*, subsidized by a \$10 loan, was printed by the Western Canada Association of the Deaf in May 1936. Published quarterly, the original yearly subscription rates for *The WCAD News* were 25 cents for members and 50 cents for non-members. Its history began following the close of the 4th Triennial Convention of the Western Canada Association of the Deaf (June 21-26, 1935) in Saskatoon, Sask., when a meeting of the new executive committee was held. Newly elected president (1935-1938) Charles William White (b. Sept. 19, 1893; d. Jan. 4, 1967) of Winnipeg, Man., discussed a suggestion from the former 1st vice-president (1932-1935), Kathleen Victoria Fleming Stinson (b. Sept. 24, 1900; d. Jan. 14, 1989) of Saskatoon, that a newspaper of some kind be published by the organization as a way of staying in touch with the membership between conventions.²⁶ The publicity committee, chaired by Harold Norman Phillips of Winnipeg, presented Stinson's suggestion as a motion, which passed unanimously. Phillips was selected as the publication's first editor. He was provided with a \$10 loan, which at that time was sufficient to cover such start-up costs as paper, stencils, postage, and incidental expenses. There were no labour charges to worry about,

because all the people working on the paper were volunteers.

The original deaf staff of the WCAD Publicity Committee who helped bring *The WCAD News* into existence were Harold Norman Phillips (chairman); Kathleen Victoria Fleming Stinson; Jean Winnifred Paterson of Saskatoon; John Albert Kelly of Stettler, Alta.; and WCAD president Charles William White (ex-officio). Two other deaf individuals, George William Sutherland and Vera Vincent, assisted in this effort as well. Sutherland's hearing father-in-law (J.B. Nicholson) provided the group with a Winnipeg office (free of charge), where many of the newsletters were typed. By the summer of 1938, the WCAD had its own equipment — “an Underwood Typewriter and a Gestetner Copying Machine.”²⁷

With the September-October 1987 issue, the publication's name was changed from *The WCAD News* to *The Deaf Reporter*, and it began appearing five times a year. With this change, the paper included a variety of worldwide news coverage with computerized illustrations and artwork. The editor was Michael John Ryan (b. Jan. 20, 1951) of Regina, Sask., who had attended the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon (1958-1968) and Gallaudet College (1968-1970). *The Deaf Reporter* went out of existence with the September-October 1988 issue after funding became a serious problem. This brought to a close WCAD's 52-year record of providing its members with continuous publications.

The OAD News

Between 1892 and 1938, the Ontario Association of the Deaf (formerly the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association [1886-1910]) sent news stories, articles, convention reports, pictures of officers, announcements, and the like for publication in *The Canadian* and its predecessor, *The Canadian Mute* (1892-1913) — both published at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville. Until the 1920s, the printing and mailing of these publications were handled primarily by the school's male students and deaf teachers. With the decline of deaf teachers at the Ontario School in the 1920s and early 1930s (due primarily to the introduction of the oral method), more control of *The Canadian* fell into the hands of hearing staff. The articles that were published espoused the educational views of hearing authorities, and most submissions for publication in *The Canadian* received from deaf writers were rejected by the hearing editors. Thus, deaf people's freedom to express their views about educational issues that affected them directly was greatly restricted. Many former graduates and some hearing people cancelled or did not renew their subscriptions to this once dominant student- and alumni-oriented newspaper.

At the 23rd Biennial Convention of the Ontario Association of the Deaf in Hamilton (June 27-30, 1936), President John Tyler Shilton raised the issue of an OAD publication. The members in attendance turned down his idea because at the time it did not seem there was sufficient financial support for its creation. The proposition to begin its own newspaper was again

Harold Norman Phillips, Editor



**Editor of *The WCAD News*,
1936-1954**

*The WCAD News/Western Canada
Association of the Deaf*

Phillips was the youngest member of a family of eight. Only he, a brother, and a sister lived to adulthood. His

Harold N. Phillips (b. Dec. 4, 1879; d. June 9, 1962) became the first deaf editor of *The WCAD News* when publication began in May 1936 under the auspices of the Western Canada Association of the Deaf. Phillips, who was familiarly known as “H.N.P.,” worked unceasingly in this position for the next 18 years (1936-1954). Born at Beckenham, in the county of Kent, England (15 kilometres from London),

elementary education was completed at a local school, and then he attended a “higher grade school” (the term used in those days for secondary school) in the nearby town of Penge, in the county of Surrey. After passing the entrance examinations to King's College in London, England, Phillips was admitted as a candidate to study for civil service work.²⁸ He passed the civil service clerkship examination, but his marks were not high enough for him to obtain one of the 150 vacancies available at that time. Not wishing to take the test again, he worked as an apprentice in the drapery business for the next three years.

When the Boer War between Great Britain and the two Afrikaner republics of South Africa broke out (1899-1902), he decided to join the voluntary militia, but was turned down by a doctor who discovered that Phillips' hearing loss was becoming progressively worse. Instead of becoming a soldier, he found employment at Messers Marshall & Snellgrove, a large drapery establishment in London's West End. It was during this time that Canada sent a group of farmers to England to encourage immigration to the Canadian West. Phillips became interested in this venture and obtained as much information as possible about the conditions in Canada. He learned that each homesteader would be given 160 acres free if the

(Continued)

discussed at the OAD's next convention in Belleville (June 18 to 22, 1938). This time, deaf people decided to stop submitting their articles to *The Canadian*. A committee was formed to study similar publications, such as *The WCAD News* (which had been started in 1936 by the Western Canada Association of the Deaf), and other newsletters produced by state associations of deaf people in the U.S.

It was not until October 1941 that the Ontario Association published the first issue of its newsletter, called *The OAD News*. President David Peikoff of Toronto was the individual mainly responsible for starting the publication. Robert Elwood McBrien, a deaf man from Peterborough, Ont., became the first editor. In the early stages of the publication, Peikoff and his deaf wife, the former Pauline "Polly" Nathanson, worked arduously with McBrien "collecting copy, typing out the stories, and then just as laboriously putting the paper through a mimeographic machine."³¹ Because the first experimental issue of *The OAD News* was well received, Peikoff and his deaf volunteer crew decided to have it mimeographed on a bi-monthly basis. In the winter of 1944-1945, the proprietor of the Northern Miner Press Limited at 122 Richmond Street West in Toronto volunteered free access to his commercial print shop on weekends when the regular staff was not working.³² These professional printing facilities allowed *The OAD News* to change dramatically in appearance, from a two-column, type-written newsletter to a four-column, typeset publication. The availability of different sizes and styles of typeface allowed the editors to capture the readers' attention with headlines, boxed notices, and graphics, and permitted more text to be included on each page. These changes helped *The OAD News* become

one of the foremost newspapers of, for, and by deaf people in North America.

After 47 years of continuous publication (1941-1988), the final edition of *The OAD News* rolled off the presses with the May-June 1988 issue (vol. 29, no. 3). A short time later, it was replaced by a new periodical called the *Ontario Deaf Life* newsletter, which was a joint project of the OAD, the Ontario Deaf Sports Association (ODSA), and the Ontario Cultural Society of the Deaf (OCSD). The first edition appeared in May 1989. However, when *Ontario Deaf Life* ceased production in 1995, the OAD began publishing *The OAD News* again.

WCCD Booster / Blue and Gold Newsletter / WCCD News

In February 1948, the four-page *WCCD Booster* made its first quarterly appearance in Winnipeg, Man. As its name suggested, the mimeographed newsletter's purpose was "boosting for the Winnipeg Community Centre of the Deaf" and serving as "a real benefit to the members in keeping them up-to-date on what is happening at the Centre."³³ The work was done on a Remington typewriter. The publication was the brainchild of Lloyd Mervyn Locke (b. Jan. 12, 1911), who became its associate editor, with William Henry Smith (b. Jan. 23, 1909; d. Jan. 9, 1993) and editor-in-chief, Charles William White (b. Sept. 19, 1893; d. Jan. 4, 1967). These three gentlemen were all former students at the Manitoba School for the Deaf (1918-1929, 1916-1926, and 1904-1908 respectively). Only a few copies of the *WCCD Booster* were printed and the date and reasons for its demise are not known.

Harold Norman Phillips, Editor ... cont'd

property were then farmed for three years. Phillips signed up to work for a bachelor farmer in the village of Lorie in the old North-West Territories (now located in Saskatchewan, which became a province in 1905), approximately 70 kilometres north of Indian Head.²⁹

Phillips started his journey to Canada at the end of April 1903. It took him 11 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean to Montréal, Québec. Upon his arrival at the town of Indian Head, he was delayed a few more days before heading north on an eight-hour journey with a mailman making his weekly trip to Lorie. There, Phillips met the hearing farmer he was to work for, who had come from England four years earlier. He worked on the farm for about two years, and then returned to Indian Head, where he worked during the harvest. Abhorring hard labour, Phillips went to Winnipeg in late 1905 to seek employment in the Canadian Post Office, where a few vacancies had opened up for deaf people. Until his application was processed, he stayed at the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb at the invitation of Duncan Wendall McDermid, the school's hearing superintendent (1890-1909). Phillips was rejected for employment by the postal service on the

grounds that he had good speech and therefore could not be classified as a deaf person by the postal authorities.

Phillips continued at the school as McDermid's guest for the next six or seven months. While there, he picked up a rudimentary knowledge of the printing trade and afterwards found a job at *The Carberry News* in Carberry, Man. Three months after he started working there, McDermid summoned Phillips back to Winnipeg for an interview with the Canadian Post Office branch on Main Street. This time, he was accepted as a postal employee and remained at that job until he retired 40 years later (1906-1946). On August 19, 1908, he married the former Irene Fewtrell, whose father was a night watchman at the Manitoba Institution.³⁰

For more than 50 years, Phillips was a well-respected and active member of the Deaf community in Western Canada. He devoted much of his leisure time to the Winnipeg Community Centre of the Deaf (WCCD) and the Western Canada Association of the Deaf (WCAD). In addition to his duties as editor of *The WCAD News* (1936-1954), Phillips also served as the organization's secretary (1935-1938 and 1938-1941) and 1st vice-president (1946-1948). He died in Winnipeg in 1962 at the age of 82 years, six months and 5 days. ■

The next newsletter to be produced by the organization was the legal-size *Blue and Gold Newsletter*, a bi-monthly publication that was introduced by Smith in January 1959. A quarter of a century later (also in January), it was renamed the *WCCD News* and produced in a different format size (8 1/2 inches by 11 inches). This new name was submitted by Forrest C. Nickerson during a “Newsletter Name” contest. The *WCCD News* is still being printed on a monthly basis, with a combined July-August edition (11 issues a year).

The Deaf Herald

This periodical, published by the Eastern Canada Association of the Deaf (ECAD), was the earliest known regional publication by the Deaf community of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. It made its debut with the September-October 1952 issue, exactly 48 years after the organization was founded as the New Brunswick Deaf-Mute Association. (Until *The Deaf Herald* came on the scene, deaf Maritimers had to rely primarily on United States’ publications for their Deaf community’s news. For example, until its demise in 1929, *The Silent Worker* — a Little Paper Family publication from Trenton, N.J. — provided Canadian readers with news from the Atlantic provinces. Articles pertaining to Canada and other topics of interest to Canadian readers were periodically published in this paper under such column headings as “Eastern Canada,” “Prominent Deaf Persons of Canada,” “New Brunswick, Canada,” “Notes from Nova Scotia,” and the like. Convention announcements and reports of the New Brunswick Deaf-Mute Association (1904-1905) and its successors, the Maritime Deaf-Mute Association (1905-1908) and the Maritime Association of the Deaf (1908-1949), were also printed in *The Silent Worker*. Another American publication that carried news of Deaf Maritimers was *Deaf-Mutes’ Journal* from New York, N.Y.)

The Deaf Herald was created when a motion passed during the 17th Biennial Convention of the Eastern Canada Association of the Deaf in Sydney, N.S. (August 28-31, 1951). However, the lack of appropriate equipment delayed the publication of its first edition for a year. The original staff consisted of Forrest Curwin Nickerson (managing director), Mary Ann MacLean (associate editor), Donald John MacKillop (associate editor), and Doris (née Hulme) MacKillop (associate editor). Karl C. Van Allen, the principal of the Halifax School for the Deaf (1939-1961), was the only hearing person involved (he served as one of the associate editors).

The paper contained regular columns on news from the four Atlantic provinces (“Halifax News” by Wilbur A. Sears and later Doris MacKillop; “Moncton News Briefs” by Jack Weldon; “Fredericton News” by Harold Sypher; “Sydney Tidbits” by Mrs. John MacDonald; “Saint John Topics” by Clarence Dickson and later Wallace Joseph Walsh; “Windsor Notes” by Allison M. Pye; “Newfoundland Notes” by G. Mason L. Bishop; and “Cape Breton News” by David Gillis). Topics of general interest or news from other provinces appeared in such columns as “Clipping and News” by Forrest C. Nickerson and “Montreal Notes” by Malcolm Nickerson. The paper also

reprint articles from other publications in Canada and the U.S. Deaf club and church announcements were included, and the text was enlivened by photographs and illustrations. Thirteen bi-monthly issues of *The Deaf Herald* were known to be printed, with the exception of the March-April 1955 issue. The last issue was the May-June 1955 edition, which contained a plea for more subscribers and more correspondents. Apparently neither was forthcoming.

The VAD News

On April 24, 1954, the Vancouver Association of the Deaf voted to start a newsletter; the first edition of this publication, called *The VAD News*, appeared in September 1954. The editor at that time was Robert Alexander Barr, and the assistant editor was Rachel Day (hearing). The paper was developed to “inform members of V.A.D. club news, Quota Club news, Community Chest news, personal items of interest to club members such as congratulations on weddings, births, and outstanding personnel [sic] achievements.”³⁴ *The VAD News* was typed, mimeographed, and distributed to the members of the organization by volunteers. By the third issue, the editors were asking the readers to provide them with “constructive criticisms which will help us to improve our papers till we reach the point where we can honestly claim that we have one of the best club newspapers on the continent.”³⁵ The struggles of the Vancouver Association of the Deaf, which were essentially the same as any other volunteer organization, were chronicled in the pages of its newsletter. One of the most popular and longest-lasting columns was written by Alexander Mutter Brodie, affectionately known as “Pop.” Deafened at the age of 16, Brodie went on to become one of Canada’s staunchest supporters of the Deaf community and a tireless fighter for the rights of deaf people. In 1973, *The VAD News* was changed to *The GVAD News*, to reflect the organization’s name change to the Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf.

On September 22, 1979, its former editors and members of the organization gathered to celebrate the newsletter’s 25th anniversary (1954-1979) with “a large birthday cake prettily decorated with sky blue roses and trimmings. The names of each of the nine editors and their years of service were written in brown icing on top of the cake.”³⁶ *The GVAD News* is still published today.

Cultural Horizons of the Deaf in Canada

This quarterly, “glossy” magazine was the creation of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD). The first issue appeared in June 1973 and featured a picture of the Golden Deft Award on its cover.³⁷ The editor of *Cultural Horizons* was Forrest Curwin Nickerson, founder and first executive director of the CCSD. The purpose of the magazine was to inform its readers of the organization’s cultural activities and to share with the world the accomplishments of Canada’s deaf citizens. *Cultural Horizons* was “dedicated to those who agree with the aims to which our Society addresses itself ... the sharing of

knowledge, the furtherance of skills, the nurturing of the cultural spirit, and the pursuit of excellence.”³⁸

Features in the magazine included articles and photographs of cultural events, including the Miss Deaf Canada competition sponsored by CCSD and the winners of the Golden Defty in various creative categories. Nickerson and other authors also used the pages of the magazine to advocate for increased recognition and support for the cultural endeavours of deaf Canadians. The Fall-Winter 1978-1979 edition of *Cultural Horizons* was prepared for publication but — because of financial difficulties — was never printed (CCSD referred to this as a “temporary” suspension of publication, but the magazine never appeared in print again). CCSD now periodically provides its members with a newsletter.

Le Penser du Sourd / Le Sourd Québécois

These publications began as *Bulletin du CLSM*, the brain-child of four members of the Centre des Loisirs des Sourds de Montréal (CLSM) — Marius Latulippe, president (1972-1975); Martin Morrisset, vice-president (1971-1972); Pierre Pigeon, secretary (1971-1972), and CLSM member Gilles Boucher. A few months later, when Raymond Dewar took over as editor (1971-1980), the name was changed to *Le Penser du Sourd* (“The Thoughts of the Deaf”), with its first issue appearing in September 1971. In October 1975, feeling that the rather old-fashioned title did not correspond with the magazine’s more contemporary contents, the organization renamed its monthly publication *Le Sourd Québécois* (“The Deaf Québecker”). It ceased publication in May 1980 due to financial problems.

L’Echo du Sourd

Published independently (as opposed to being published by a school or club), the first issue of *L’Echo du Sourd* appeared in September 1976. This publication, which was distributed free to all deaf people in Québec, apparently ended with the December 1979 issue (vol. 4, no. 4).

Voir Dire

With the demise of *L’Echo du Sourd* in 1979 and *Le Sourd Québécois* in 1980, the francophone Deaf community in Québec was without its own regular publication. To remedy this situation, the Association des Sourds du Montréal-Métropolitain (ASMM) submitted a grant proposal to the federal Ministry of Employment and Immigration in 1982, asking for funds to create a bi-monthly newsletter. By May 1983, the organization’s request was approved, and they began a six-month project called “Communication-Sourds.” *Voir Dire*, the publication generated by this grant, first appeared with the September-October 1983 issue. Its title was suggested by Arthur Bernard LeBlanc (b. Aug. 19, 1935), a graduate of the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets in Montréal (1944-1954) who became its editor, and Jacques Raymond, who was at one time the president of ASMM. Consisting of 24 pages, the first copies were distribut-



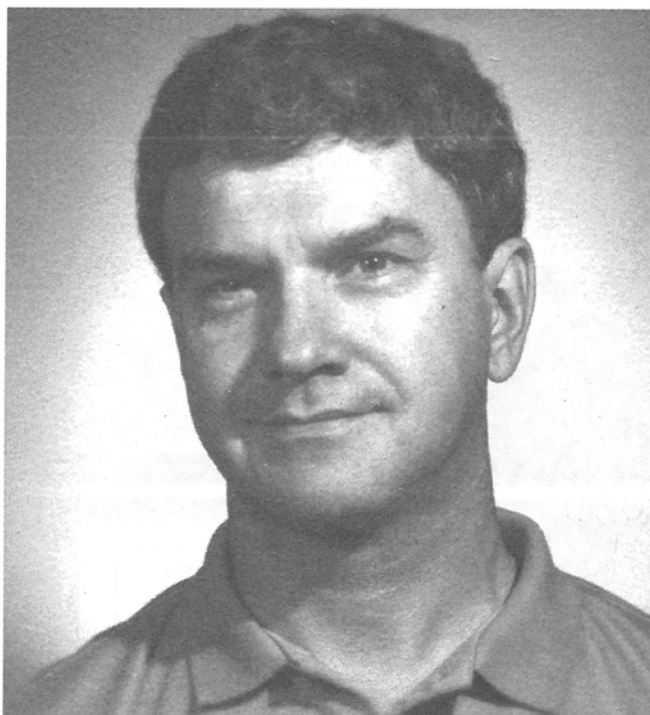
Canadian publications from the francophone Deaf community

Photo credit: Dorothy L. Smith (Burlington, Ont.)

ed free of charge to all known organizations and services for the Deaf community in the cities of Montréal and Québec. The paper also solicited new subscribers, as well as articles to fill the pages of future issues. When the federal grant expired, the ASMM took over the sponsorship of *Voir Dire*. To produce the publication, volunteers and collaborators have continued to work during their free time, often labouring into the wee hours of the morning. Under their dynamic leadership, *Voir Dire* remains an important contribution to its Canadian readers of francophone background.

Canadian Journal of the Deaf

The *Canadian Journal of the Deaf (CJD)* began in the spring of 1987, and was billed as “the beginning of a new era in the area of deafness in Canada: a journal of, for, and by the deaf aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of the real



Arthur LeBlanc (1985), current editor of *Voir Dire*

Courtesy of Arthur LeBlanc (Montréal, Québec)

implications of being deaf.”³⁹ Published by the Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) under the editorship of Roger J. Carver, the first issue was dedicated to two individuals: Dr. David Peikoff, a deaf man who was involved in the founding of the CAD and served as its first secretary (1940-1960), and Dr. Michael Rodda of the University of Alberta, a hearing man who — according to the editorial in the first issue — “epitomizes the hearing professional who accepts the deaf for what they are, placing his belief in and valuing as his equals deaf persons.”⁴⁰ The *CJD* was discontinued with volume 3, no. 3 due to the high costs involved in producing the publication (the publication date for this last issue was supposed to be 1989 but was delayed until March or April 1990).

Deaf Canada

Published jointly by the three national organizations (Canadian Association of the Deaf [CAD], Canadian Deaf Sports Association [CDSA], and Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf [CCSD]), *Deaf Canada* first came on the scene with the November-December 1992 issue. The newsletter, printed in both English and French, appears bi-monthly (except for July and August). Michael John Ryan of Regina, Sask., is the deaf editor, assisted by the original editorial board — James Roots (CAD) of Ottawa, Ont., Doug Shirton (CDSA) of Ottawa, Ont. (hearing), and Arlene Wood (CCSD) of Edmonton, Alta. (The board was formed, but never met.) In an effort to cut costs and avoid duplication of subscribers, the three organizations agreed that *Deaf Canada* would replace CAD’s *The Deaf Canadian Advocate*, CDSA’s *The Competitor*, and CCSD’s *Newsletter*.

The Canadian Teacher of the Deaf / The ACEHI Journal

The Canadian Teacher of the Deaf, a national publication, made its appearance in 1971. It was “printed as a learning experience by graphic arts students” in the vocational program at the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst, N.S.⁴¹ The publication sparked interest in networking among professionals, which led to a meeting called the First National Convention of Canadian Teachers of the Deaf (held August 22-25, 1973 at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville). The highlight of this assemblage was the birth of Canada’s first national association of teachers of the deaf, known as the Association of Canadian Educators of the Hearing Impaired (ACEHI) / l’Association Canadienne des Educateurs des Deficients-Auditifs (ACEDA). As a result, the journal was renamed *The ACEHI Journal / La Revue ACEDA*, and the first issue under this title appeared in March 1974. Responsibility for its publication was assumed in 1983 by the Faculty of Education and Publication Services at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where it is still being printed and distributed. *Educator/ Educateur*, the ACEHI’s newsletter, is published by the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton.

The Alberta Signal

The Alberta Signal was the result of a partnership between the Alberta Association of the Deaf and the Western Canadian Centre of Specialization in Deafness (WCCSD) at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Volume 1, number 1 of the new publication appeared in January 1989. The name “Signal” was chosen because “it emphasized an important part of the deaf world — the visual element ... it stands as a signal or beacon calling attention to deaf news, events, issues, positions, attitudes, and values.”⁴² The publication was intended to “be a neutral, province-wide, serious publication that will include all of the news of all of the various organizations, agencies, groups, and individuals.”⁴³ The editor was Philip Taylor, and the editorial board was comprised of Roger Carver and David Mason. Taylor stepped down as editor in August 1989, and Roger Carver became the acting editor (when he moved to Vancouver in 1990, Tanis Doe became editor). The monthly publication schedule, which became erratic, was changed in January 1990 to bi-monthly. *The Alberta Signal*, while a worthwhile idea, proved to be short-lived. When the funding period with the University of Alberta ended, there were insufficient funds generated from ads to continue publishing the paper. The last issue appeared in early 1991.

Other Publications

A multitude of other publications have been produced by organizations within each province’s Deaf community. Some were for the members only; others were for a more general audience. Some existed only for a short time and never re-appeared; others came and went and came again in altered forms. Unfortunately, space does not permit mention of them all in this edition of *Deaf Heritage in Canada*.

Deaf Canadian Publishers and Editors

Campbell Sutherland Stephens, Deaf Newspaper Publisher in Canada

In 1856 and 1859 respectively, two Nova Scotian newspapers, *The Avon Herald* and *A Small Sheet*, were the product of a deaf publisher. The proprietor of this enterprise was Campbell Sutherland Stephens (b. 1833; d. Unknown), a native of Wolfville, N.S. Deaf from birth, he was educated at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Glasgow, Scotland, admitted as Pupil No. 301 on February 11, 1845 when he was 11 years old.⁴⁴ While there, he began to learn the printing trade; he later perfected his skills as a compositor upon his return to Canada in the early 1850s. In 1856, Stephens launched a newspaper business in Windsor, N.S. His first publication was *The Avon Herald*, the town's only paper at that time.⁴⁵ Wishing to expand his enterprise, he asked the Hon. Joseph Howe to present a petition on his behalf to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly on February 13, 1858. This petition requested financial assistance in the amount of £75 to hire an assistant in the editorial department. Stephen's request was referred to a Relief Committee.⁴⁶ It is not known exactly what response he received to his petition (No. 73), but it appears not to have been favourable, because *The Avon Herald* ceased publication later that same year.

Stephens' second publishing attempt took place in Canning, N.S., where, in 1859, he began printing *A Small Sheet*, the first newspaper in Kings County. However, this, too, was a short-lived venture, with only a few copies of the newspaper issued.⁴⁷ Little information can be found on Stephens following the collapse of *A Small Sheet*. According to the 1864 *City Directory* of Halifax, he was listed as a printer and living at 17 Spring Garden Road. However, after 1866, his name disappeared from the directories, and did not appear in the 1871 census. It is presumed that he either died or moved away, perhaps to try another printing venture elsewhere.

Norman Vickers Lewis and the Los Angeles-based Philocophus Press

Between 1898 and the 1920s, a popular printing company known as the Philocophus Press was operated in Los Angeles, Calif., by Norman Vickers Lewis (b. Mar. 27, 1852; d. Nov. 9, 1934), its deaf, Canadian-born proprietor. Lewis was a native of Toronto, who became deaf after he contracted scarlet fever at the age of four. He received his education from John Barrett McGann, first at the Upper Canada and later at the Hamilton Institutions for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, in Toronto and Hamilton, Ont. respectively.⁴⁸ When he was 13 years old, Lewis apprenticed at the *Toronto Daily Globe* to learn the printing trade.⁴⁹ He later moved to Detroit, Mich., and worked as a printing foreman in the office of the *Journal of*

Commerce.⁵⁰ When he returned to Toronto, Lewis opened a small enterprise on Sydenham Street where, in 1885, he began publishing *The Silent Nation*, a semi-monthly publication for deaf Canadians.⁵¹

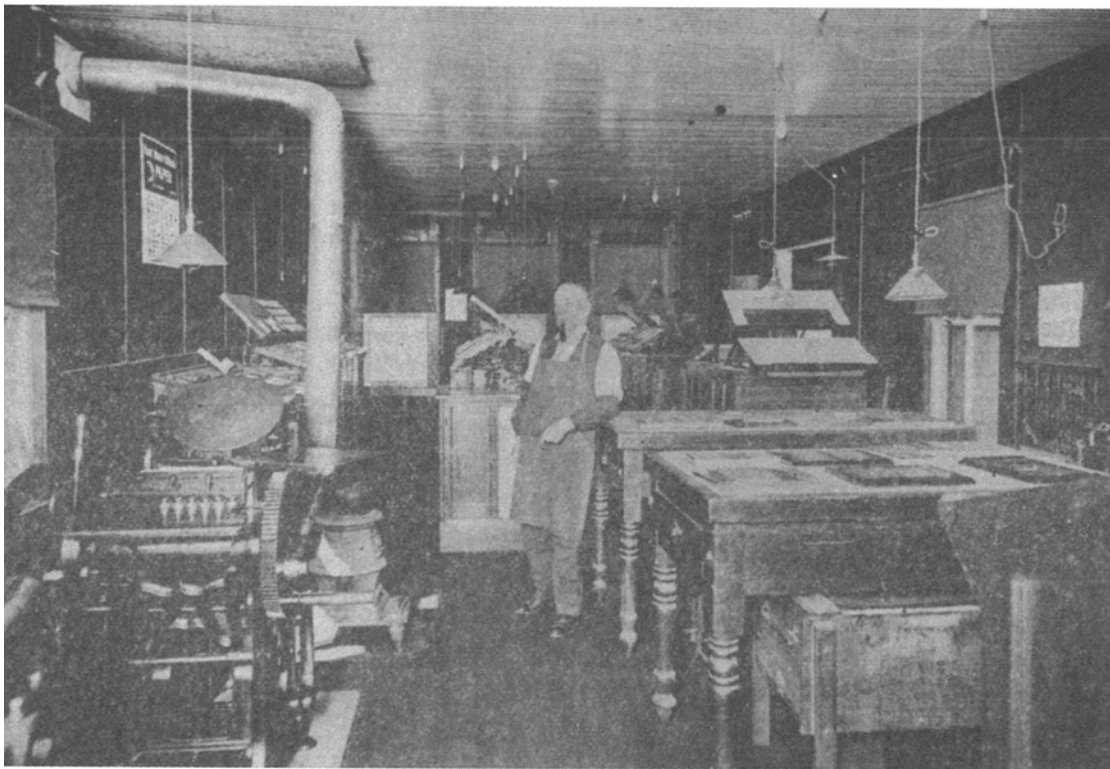
On March 24, 1882, Lewis married Sarah (née Fitzakerly) Guest (b. June 3, 1840; d. Dec. 19, 1919), a British-born widow. The bride was the deaf sister of Margaret Widd (also deaf), whose deaf husband Thomas founded the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes in Montréal in September 1870. (Before he moved to Canada to farm near Brussels, Ont., Sarah's father, Timothy Fitzakerly, had worked as a horticulturist at the palatial mansion of the Duke of Newcastle in Worksop near Sherwood Forest, where England's famous Robin Hood roamed.) She entered the Yorkshire Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Doncaster, England in 1847, and came to Canada with the Widds in 1867. She worked as a matron at the Protestant Institution (1870-1881) before moving to Toronto, where she later met Lewis.⁵² Because of his wife's ill health, Lewis moved to Los Angeles, Calif. in the fall of 1886, and the couple resided at 2225 Vermont Avenue.



Norman V. and Sarah Lewis in the 1880s
The Canadian Mute/Gallaudet University Archives

Lewis was employed by various printing companies until 1898, when he went into business for himself, operating a printshop from an annex he built onto his house. He first published the *History of the Los Angeles Association of the Deaf*, and later a magazine called *Philocophus*, meaning "deaf mute's friend." He also adopted that name for his printing business, Philocophus Press. With only about \$2,000 worth of equipment, Lewis' small company completed such printing jobs as business cards, flyers, and mini-newspaper publications.⁵³

Besides running a business, he was also an active member of the Ephphatha Mission of the Deaf (later renamed the Episcopal Gallaudet Mission), which was originally established by his brother-in-law, Thomas Widd, after Widd and his wife moved to Los Angeles in 1882. Lewis printed and published *The Church Messenger* (the organ of the Bishop of Los Angeles) for the Episcopal Diocese of Southern California, and served as the warden and treasurer of the Ephphatha Mission.⁵⁴ In his spare time, he collected rare coins, stamps, and badges. On August 6, 1921, two years after the death of his wife, 69-year-old Lewis married Allie May Andrews, a deaf resident of Los Angeles.⁵⁵ He died 13 years later in 1934.



Lewis and his print shop (1919)
The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

John Tyler Shilton and Toronto's Imperial Press

For 40 years (1910-1950), John Tyler Shilton (b. Aug. 28, 1884; d. Nov. 1, 1950), a deaf tradesman, operated the Imperial Press, a successful printing business in Toronto. Born in Georgetown, Ont., he received his education at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1891-1899) and the University of Toronto (B.A.Sc., 1904-1909).

Shilton first learned the trade of printing at the Ontario Institution. He later apprenticed at the Methodist Publishing House in Toronto (1903-1904). In 1908, during his third year at the University of Toronto, he started a printing business with a deaf associate, George William Reeves. When their partnership was dissolved in 1910, Shilton took over the reins of the firm, and continued its operations until he died in 1950.⁵⁶ His printing establishment started at 153 Victoria Street, and in later years moved to 202 Dalhousie Street. In June 1948, Shilton relocated his business to 254 Adelaide Street West in the heart of the Toronto's industrial district.

Aside from running a business and helping his wife raise the family (three hearing boys — James, Ralph, and Paul — and two hearing girls — Margaret and Ann), Shilton managed to find time for many Deaf community activities. He was a key figure in the Toronto Deaf religious community and held several important positions within the Ontario Association of the Deaf and the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf. His hearing wife, Isabel Edith (b. Apr. 5, 1889; d. Dec. 16, 1965), was the

daughter of deaf parents, Philip and Catharine “Cassie” (née Johnston) Fraser of Toronto.

Julius Henry Wiggins, Publisher of One of America's Leading Newspapers for the Deaf Community

In the late 1960s, a non-profit American corporation known as the Silent Press was started by Julius Henry Wiggins (b. Sept. 19, 1928), an alumnus of the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1933-1941). Wiggins, a furrier by trade, wanted to produce a monthly newspaper especially for deaf people that would report on a variety of general news items of interest to the Deaf community.

At first, many deaf people doubted that such a publication would be successful. Nevertheless, with the help of Harriet, his deaf American wife, Wiggins found six investors to fund the newspaper. They published the first issue on January 1, 1969, from a print shop in Lincoln, N.J. owned by a deaf printer. The headline read, “SILENT NEWS IS BORN.”

To get the paper off the ground, Wiggins “travelled extensively soliciting news, selling papers and subscriptions, and developing a network of contacts that now form the foundation of today's *Silent News*.”⁵⁷ Within two months, the paper's pop-



January 1969: The first issue of Silent News. The paper got a face-lift in January 1992 (right).

The first edition and a contemporary issue of *Silent News*

Courtesy of The Silent News (Rochester, N.Y.)

ularity had soared, and many new subscribers got on the bandwagon. Contributors from around the world sent Wiggins a stream of news items and reports of all kinds devoted to Deaf communities. In 1970, Wiggins and his wife bought out the other six original investors and became sole owners of the Silent Press. They began working from their home, and later contracted with local computer operators to typeset the newspaper before it was sent to a local printer. Also in 1970, the Silent Press published Wiggins' autobiography, *No Sound*. In 1989, the paper received that year's Distinguished Service Award from the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association. By the early 1990s, there were three full-time staff members working at *Silent News*, plus Wiggins and his wife, who continued in their roles of publisher, secretary, bookkeeper, and subscription manager.

Today, *Silent News* continues to serve as an avenue for freedom of expression about issues of concern to deaf people, and is considered to be North America's most popular newspaper within the Deaf community. The paper celebrated its 25th anniversary in January 1994 with a special 12-page insert commemorating its first quarter century of existence. *Silent News*, with Wiggins still in the publisher's seat, currently has a worldwide circulation of more than 125,000.

Publications from the United States' Deaf Community

With the demise of early Canadian publications such as *The Silent World* (1879-1882), *The Silent Nation* (1885-1886), *The Canadian Silent Observer* (1888-1889), *The Gospel Light* (1908-1917), and *The Deaf Canadian* (1912-1915), articles of Canadian content relating to deaf people and their activities surfaced regularly in American publications. This practice continued until World War II. *The Silent Worker* and the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal* in the United States were two favourites of Canada's Deaf community.

The Silent Worker

Of all the Little Paper Family publications in the United States, *The Silent Worker* was perhaps the most famous and the "best magazine deaf readers in the country had ever seen."⁵⁸ For 38 years (1891-1929), it was published from October to June each year by the print shop students at the New Jersey School for the Deaf in Trenton.⁵⁹ This publication competed with the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal (DMJ)* for readers. It is ironic that *The Silent Worker's* most well-known editor, George Sidney Porter, had been trained by the editor of *DMJ*. Porter (b. Oct. 15, 1862; d. May 8, 1931) had learned the trade of printing while a student at the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City (1872-1884). His mentor was Edwin Allan Hodgson, a deaf Canadian in charge of the school's printing department (and also editor of the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal*). Porter served as Hodgson's assistant instruc-

tor of printing for six years (1884-1890), and later took a position at the New Jersey School (1891-1929). He continued in the school's print shop until his retirement and the subsequent demise of *The Silent Worker*, both of which were clouded in controversy. Among other things, the publication had provided deaf people with a forum to debate the merits of the manual vs. oral approach in educating deaf students. The school's administrator, Alvin E. Pope (whose name is listed on the paper's masthead as editor, with Porter as assistant editor and business manager), disapproved of the opinions being expressed by deaf writers in the paper. "In 1929, Pope fired the bulk of the school's deaf teachers, forced Porter to retire, and shut down the newspaper."⁶⁰

News about Canadians and other topics of interest to attract Canadian subscribers were frequently included in *The Silent Worker* during its 38 years of publication. Included were columns that focused on deaf Canadians. *The Silent Worker* was revived in September 1948 by the United States' organization, the National Association of the Deaf. It was renamed *The Deaf American* in September 1964. From time to time, articles of Canadian interest continued to appear in its pages until the magazine ceased publication in the fall of 1989.

Deaf-Mutes' Journal

Another popular newspaper, the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal*, had a number of columns reserved for news and other topics of interest from the Canadian Deaf community. Edwin Allan Hodgson (b. Feb. 28, 1854; d. Aug. 13, 1933), a former Canadian from Peterborough, Ont., was its editor and publisher for 53 years (1878-1931).⁶¹ *Deaf-Mutes' Journal* was a weekly edition produced by the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City. Canadian contents in the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal* were printed under such columns as "Canada Notes," "British Columbia," "Winnipeg, Manitoba," "Ontario," "Western Ontario," "Toronto News," "Belleville, Ont.," "Ontario Institution," "Montreal, Canada," "Mackay Institution," and "Maritime Deaf-Mute Association." Biennial convention reports pertaining to the Ontario Association of the Deaf were also included. *Deaf-Mutes' Journal* ceased publication in December 1935.

American Annals of the Deaf

Originally known as the *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb (AADD)* [1847-1886], the *American Annals of the Deaf (AAD)* is considered "the oldest educational publication in the United States still in existence" and "also the oldest journal on education of the deaf in the world."⁶² This publication was started by the faculty at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (now the American School for the Deaf) in Hartford, Conn. It is now managed by a joint annals administrative committee composed of members from the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf (CAID) and the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf (CEASD). Over the years, the Canadian contents pertaining to the origins of deaf education, early teachers and admin-

istrators, school buildings, statistics, obituaries, and newsy items such as “Institution Items” and “School Items” have provided valuable data to historians and interested readers alike.

Literary Works by Deaf Canadians

Many deaf Canadians have enjoyed expressing their thoughts and feelings through the written word. Both reading and writing were encouraged by literary organizations formed by deaf adults after they left school. The style of writing popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s was different from that of today, but many of the themes have remained the same.

Archibald Wright, Writer

Archibald Wright is remembered as “a firm believer in the theory that ripeness of mind is essential to all truly great creative work.”⁶³ Wright (b. Jan. 19, 1888; d. Nov. 28, 1958) was deafened at three years of age from scarlet fever, and later attended the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (1893-1905) in Winnipeg.⁶⁴ He was employed by the Canadian Post Office and assigned to the position of letter clerk at the newly opened Canadian Pacific Railway station in Winnipeg for a year (1905-1906) before leaving to pursue his studies at Kendall School (1906-1907) and Gallaudet College (B.A., 1907-1912). Wright returned to Winnipeg to work for the post office in 1913 and continued there until 1918. He also took post-graduate courses in analytical chemistry at the University of Manitoba (1917-1918). On August 4, 1916, in Minneapolis, Minn., he married a congenitally deaf American woman, Fern Fannie Herrinton (b. May 5, 1893; d. Sept. 1, 1990) of Charles City, Iowa, who had been a student at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs (1899-1911) and Gallaudet College (1911-1913).⁶⁵ The couple had two hearing children, a son (Archibald) and a daughter (Barbara). After working as a chemical analyst for a Winnipeg abattoir (slaughterhouse) for a year (1919-1920), Wright moved to Ottawa, Ont., where he was employed by the Department of Internal Revenue (now National Health and Welfare) as Canada’s second deaf food and drug analyst.⁶⁶ He worked for the Department’s Food and Drug Administration in this capacity for the next 32 years (1921-1953).

Writing articles and poetry had always been Wright’s hobby. On the occasion of his graduation from Gallaudet College in June 1912, Wright presented a brief essay called “Books,” which is reprinted here. In the 1940s and 1950s, he wrote numerous articles and poetry for “Musings of the Ottawa Sage,” his regular column in *The OAD News*. He founded the Ottawa Association of the Deaf in 1932 and served as its secretary (1932-1935) and president (1945-1954). He also took an active part in the Ottawa Mission to the Deaf. Wright died in 1958 at his home in Ottawa.

Poetry

Practising what he preached, Archibald Wright read — and



Archibald Wright (1908)

The Silent Echo/Gallaudet University Archives

wrote — poetry as well as prose. He is among good company, for many deaf poets expressed their thoughts and feelings through metre and rhyme. A few of them are represented below.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls, what majestic scene!
Whither all those waters rushing headlong?
Does it matter if what can be seen
We do not hear the on-rush, the song
Grow appreciative with silence
Intense with spectrum of the rainbows.

— Archibald Wright, 1946

De L'Épée

Spirit of De L'Épée rebukes
The erring novice who refutes
What De L'Épée meant for flukes
To aid in fasting, open the mind.

Others were quick to see his line,
And his ways never did decline;
Took many a deaf and dumb one in,
And the best to him consign'd.

Spirit of De L'Épée calls,
'Ere the means he taught falls,
And lamenting is heard in halls,
Where his methods ought to bind.

— Archibald Wright, 1945

With Our Eyes, Not With Our Ears

She sings, deaf Mademoiselle sings
 The rhythm is not in the rhyme
 'Tis in the manner of giving that brings
 Together with her expression fine
 On which her best rendition hinges.
 We have undulations of the voice
 And with signs we have resource
 To something like "wind bending the pines"
 Or to fact "Milady dines"
 And when 'tis about something on high
 We find the octave in her eye
 And when her song reaches "Good Bye"
 We see the lady's hand sailing high.

– Archibald Wright, 1948

Another poem by a deaf individual touched on a religious theme.

**What His Eyes Told Me,
Though His Lips Moved Not**

by H.H. Cameron (in *The Canadian Mute*)⁶⁷

You say I cannot sing,
 You think I cannot hear
 You tell me all I meet in life
 Will never reach mine ear;
 Yet there is much of secret sin,
 And much of wordless woe,
 For what I see, and what I feel,
 Has often told me so.

You think I cannot sing,
 Because I cannot hear,
 Because no vocal strains of mine
 Have rung upon your ear;
 But if I cannot sing by ear,
 I take another part,

**Wright's 1912 Essay on
"BOOKS"**

To us silent people, books are the best companions in the world. In moments when we are not able to join in the conversation of the family circle, and feel lonely, books will entertain us. The old Greek scholars termed books the "Medicine of the Soul"; for when we are sick in the mind and out of sorts, they console and heal us. Ask a friend to go with you to a desolate place, he may decline; but you do not need to ask a book; take it along, and it will prove itself the most agreeable of companions. Books convey us into realms of fancy, of history, of science and of religion; and wandering through these worlds of the present, or of the future we, for a time, forget our existence, our worries and our sorrows and when we emerge, we have learned something for meditation in solitary hours.

A repast is in every good book for those who appreciate good literature. One need not feel slighted if he is not invited to a banquet, for, if he will sup on his own humble fare, and then retire to a quiet corner with a volume of Shakespeare or Burns, he will have a feast that is more appetizing than an actual banquet, and a very profitable one as well. So that quaint old man in George W.

Curtis' book, "Pure and I," never went to real banquets, but nevertheless, enjoyed them often in fancy.

We can, if our imagination is stimulated by some good book, take ourselves whither we will; into palaces, before kings and queens; and if we make a blunder in their presence, it does not matter; only ourselves, and not they, need know of it. Why travel across the great divide of water to see the far regions of the earth when we can be carried thither cheaply by reading books of travel.

It is by striving to grasp what is best in the world that we can arouse a love for good literature. Many of the best works may sometimes make tedious reading because they compel us to think; but, if we persist, we learn most from this kind.

One should not always read prose; a poem helps one to perceive the beautiful; and, without the perception of the beautiful, one cannot admire what is good. Music charms thousands, but it is nothing to us deprived of our hearing. But when one is deprived of one sense, another sense makes up, in a measure, for the loss. Our eyes take most of the functions of the ears, and when music has no charms for us, poetry delights us. By meter we are carried into a land of silent music. Held in memory,

(Continued)

In rendering the Psalm of Life
And singing from the heart.

You think my song is sad, —
And wherefore should it be?
The gulf you think divides our lives
Is hedged by sympathy
In common sense to us both,
We each can sympathize,
And what I lack is just withheld
By One who is all-wise.

You cannot hear my song,
So soft and low it chimes,
You only turn the pages o'er
And read between the lines
But you will hear the glad refrain,
And join me when I sing
The praises of my Father's love,
And triumphs of my King.

And finally, James Balis answers a question (often asked by hearing people) in a poem that describes his personal experiences.

Do I Hear When I Dream?

by James C. Balis (1886)⁶⁸

Do I hear, as I fathom sweet dreamland's abyss?
Do I hear, as, when wingless, I soar 'mid its heights?
Or, when spurning the world, wafted free where I list,
Do I hear? 'Tis but silence my spirit delights.

As I float 'mid the stars, or career the profound,
The immeasurable depths of the ethereal sea;
As from planet to planet I leap with a bound,
Ever, cycles of silence encompassing me!

An oblivion so deep that I pause in my flight,
All attent, when a world 'pon another is sped;
And I list for the crash with a longing delight,
Nought is heard, not a sound, all is still as the dead.

When to earth I return, from a flight, ah! too brief,
And once more among mortals I move in my dream.
'Mid the phantoms and phantasies, pleasure and grief,
Still that silence impends, as a pall, o'er the scene.

They are speaking and acting, move joyous along,
As 'tis ever in dreamland — they go and they come;
But of joying or grieving, sweet cadence of song,
Though I see and I know, to mine ear they are dumb.

Wright's 1912 Essay on "BOOKS"... cont'd

the poets in their various moods and fancies become our musicians, who strike upon the chords of the mind and heart, and send vibrating through us the harmony of the world. Night enshrouded in her velvety blackness, with the moon and stars as her gleaming jewels, awaken our souls to the "music of the spheres," the more surely if we have read the verse of Shelley and Wordsworth.

When Stanley went to Africa, he took with him several books, but the inhabitants were so superstitious and suspicious of some that he had with him, that they burned all but one — the Bible. Yet Stanley was more than content with that. Some say there is nothing interesting in the Bible. He who says this has not yet discovered the best of all books. Daniel Webster, Thomas Carlyle and John Ruskin owed their wonderful eloquence to the reading of the Bible. When you go forth into field and forest take the Bible along with you; read the sublime eloquence of the prophets amidst the solemn forests, by thundering cataracts, upon high hills, in shady vales, or by expanse of blue water. And looking up and beholding scenes, similar to those their eyes beheld, the ancient sages will seem to be not far away; their voices are sounding from the copse; and withal, you feel that the good that they have voiced hovers over

you and is enwrapped in the surrounding beauties of nature. So read, the Bible reveals to us unsuspected beauties, and its solemn cadences lend an inspiration to a nobler life and the upbuilding of a sterling character.

The old books are the best; or, as Emerson says, "The old books contain first and last and the best thoughts"; they have stood the test of time and endured the criticism of the ages, and are here to stay. The old books are the foundation of the new. The new are stubble, built upon the foundation of the old. Winnow them, and what grain of worth you may find therein are the thoughts of the ancients — the nucleus of the new books. But it is not necessary to waste time in winnowing. Go direct to the granary of golden thoughts and have your fill. So did Fenelon, the eminent French writer who was an ardent lover of Homer and of his "admirable simplicity"; so did Sir William Jones, the distinguished British Orientalist, who found consolation and relaxation in Cicero; so did William Ewart Gladstone, when he sought in Greek literature and philosophy, solace and rejuvenation from the vexation and disappointment of political strife, and so let it be also with you.

In conclusion, let me say, books are your friends, whom, as with human friends, you ought to choose wisely and well. Develop a taste for good literature and you will be seeking a noble end.⁶⁹ ■

Then I turn once again with the longing unsated,
 And I think, as I dream, that ere long I'll awake,
 Oblivion of silence in sound dissipated,
 Then rapturous music, thro' the barriers shall break!

When the waning of light 'neath the rose blush of morn,
 Bids flee to their caverns the visions of slumber;
 When I wake to the world, as the day-god is born,
 That oblivion maintains, its silence more sombre!



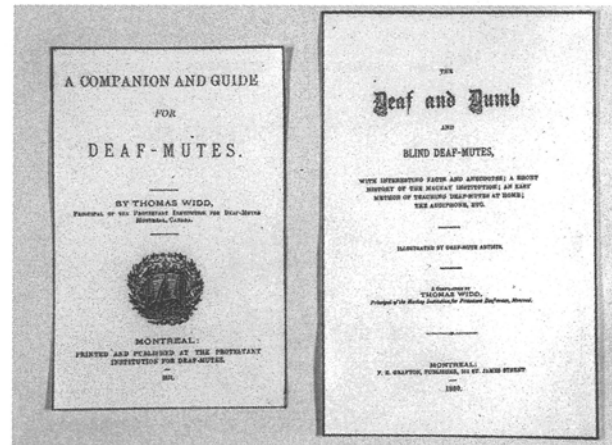
James C. Balis (circa 1890)
 Representative Deaf Persons/Gallaudet University Archives

Books Written or Compiled by Deaf Canadians

The following books, which were chosen to illustrate the variety of literary styles and documents produced by Canada's deaf men and women, represent only some of the works available by deaf Canadian authors and editors. Personal information on many of the individuals listed below can be found in other chapters of *Deaf Heritage in Canada*; brief biographical sketches on those not listed elsewhere in this book have been included with the descriptions of their works.

The Travels and Adventures of George Samuel Cull (Deaf and Dumb Cripple), *Written by Himself, With an Introduction Exhibiting the State of Deaf Mute Education, &c., &c., in Europe and America by John Barrett McGann, Esq., Head Master of the Toronto School for the Deaf and Dumb* (1862) and *The Youthful Travels and Adventures of George Samuel Cull, a Deaf and Dumb Cripple, the Son of a Soldier in the Royal Artillery, Including a Sketch of Seventeen Years' Residence in the Northern and*

Southern Parts of England, and Five Years' Travelling Through Canada and the United States (1863). George Samuel Cull, who came to Canada from England around 1857, wrote his autobiographies as a way to earn money. After labouring over nine handwritten drafts (probably suffering with writer's cramp from the title alone!), he finally published his first book in Toronto, Ont. Apparently, it sold well, because the next year he revised it and published the second edition, under a slightly different (but equally long) title. Cull peddled the books himself as he continued his travels throughout Eastern Canada. See Chapter 17: "DOWN MEMORY LANE", for more of Cull's story.

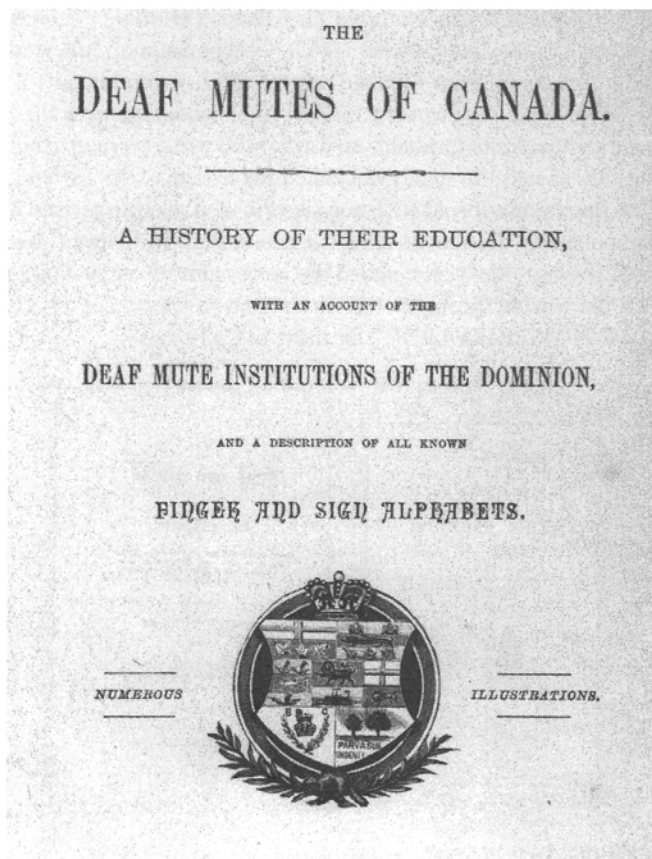


Widd's two books

Photo credit: Chun Louie and Joan Schlub, Gallaudet University Photo Services

A Companion and Guide for Deaf-Mutes (1874) and *The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Deaf-Mutes, with Interesting Facts and Anecdotes; A Short History of the Mackay Institution; an Easy Method of Teaching Deaf-Mutes at Home; the Audiphone, etc.* (1880) were written by Thomas Widd, principal of the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec. The first book was produced by the boys in the printshop at the school; the second book was illustrated by deaf artists. Details on Widd's career can be found in Chapter 4: SCHOOLS IN QUÉBEC AND ONTARIO.

The Deaf Mutes of Canada was compiled and published by Charles James Howe (b. June 8, 1855; d. Aug. 6, 1895), a deaf foreman at J. Gage & Company in Toronto. The 127-page book, published in 1888, had the lengthy title, *The Deaf Mutes of Canada: A History of Their Education With an Account of the Deaf Mute Institutions of the Dominion, and a Description of All Known Finger and Sign Alphabets*. This book, which was divided into two sections, contained a narrative and illustrative account of deaf education: the first part (nine chapters) covered the general history of deaf education and sign language abroad and in the United States; the second part had three chapters pertaining to the provinces of Ontario, Québec, and Nova Scotia, which had been written by John Barrett McGann (with a continuation by his daughter, Euphemia [née McGann] Terrill). Howe was educated at the Hamilton Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (1864-1870) and the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (1876-1878) in Belleville.⁷⁰ He was killed at the age of 40



Title page of Howe's book (1888)

The Deaf Mutes of Canada/Gallaudet University Archives

from a fall into an elevator shaft at work.

Autobiography of George Tait, Who First Gave Instructions to the Deaf and Dumb in the City of Halifax, published in 1877, was written by the deaf educator "in accordance with the wishes of some of my friends."⁷¹ The booklet was released in at least 14 reprints, some of which included "slight alterations" and additional accounts.⁷² The little volume also contained sections of a report written in the United States by Dr. Isaac Lewis Peet on the history of schools for deaf children in Europe and the United States. The original purpose of the *Autobiography of George Tait*, as stated at the beginning of the booklet, was "to make the book sufficiently interesting to awaken within the bosoms of any who may read it, an interest in the children of silence."⁷³ Another reason for writing the manuscript was to set the record straight — at least as far as Tait was concerned — regarding who should receive credit for being the first teacher of deaf children in Halifax, N.S., and for founding the first school there. Included in the 14th edition were "a few references, and as some doubt the validity of my statement concerning my first starting the Deaf and Dumb School in Halifax, I have obtained a passage from an old paper in connection with that fact printed upon the event of the school first being started."⁷⁴ During the Depression years of the 1880s, Tait peddled the booklet himself for 25 cents in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Québec. More information on Tait can be found in Chapter 5: SCHOOLS IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES.

Sur les Sourds-Muets leur Education, Anecdotes, Etc. et La Fortune de Jay Gould was produced by Francis George Jefferson. Jefferson himself peddled the small booklet (published in French in Montréal during the 1890s) for five cents. The booklet contains several short pieces, one on a man named Jay Gould and how he acquired his fortune. Part of the document was meant for parents of deaf children, according to Jefferson. He also published the story about Jay Gould in English, under the title *About Jay Gould's Fortune, and How to Get Rich* (1889), as well as a second book entitled *Best Advice to Young Ladies and Gentlemen Before They Get Married* (also 1889). According to one review of the latter work, "Mr. Jefferson has evidently studied his subjects thoroughly, and he writes with wonderful vigor."⁷⁵ He sold both English-language books for five cents.

From Far and Near was compiled by Sylvia Lee (née Chapin) Balis (b. Mar. 8, 1864; d. Nov. 20, 1950), a deaf teacher at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1890-1929). In 1901, while attending the 16th Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf (July 2-8) in Buffalo, N.Y., Balis was appointed to chair a committee to select stories and illustrations for a children's book. It took her a year to complete the project, which was published in Toronto by George M. Morgan and Company under the title *From Far and Near* (1902). Her 144-page book contained nearly 150 simple stories dealing with familiar subjects. The short stories were gathered mainly from the children's columns of various Little Paper Family newspapers published by residential schools for deaf children in Canada and the United States.

Kiowa: The History of A Blanket Indian Mission (1915), *A Jolly Journal* (1932), and *Joyful Journey* (1951) were written by Isabel Alice Hartley Crawford, a deafened missionary to the



Sylvia Chapin Balis (1916)

The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

Kiowa Indians of Oklahoma. The three books describe in a cheerful and engaging manner her experiences growing up in Ontario, going to school in Manitoba, and becoming a missionary in the United States. Quotes from her books can be found in Chapter 10: RELIGION.

No Sound is an autobiography by Julius Wiggins. This book was a collaborative effort between Wiggins, who was telling the story of his life, and two other writers — Flora A. Clark, who wrote the first draft of his story, and Sarah B. Dona (a hearing woman), who edited the book. The book chronicles Wiggins' life as a child, teenager and young adult, and ends with the story of his publishing venture, *The Silent News*. Flora Agnes Clark (b. Apr. 3, 1934), who worked evenings with Wiggins writing the first draft of his autobiography, became deaf at the age of six following an attack of spinal meningitis (she spent her seventh birthday in hospital while recovering from the illness). She attended the Ontario School for the Deaf (1944-1949), the Belleville Collegiate Institute (1949-1954), and Gallaudet College (B.Sc., 1954-1958). While at Gallaudet, she edited the school newspaper, *The Buff and Blue*, for one year (1956-1957). She also served as editor (1964-1967) of *The OAD News* for the Ontario Association of the Deaf. Clark currently works as a clerk at RBC Dominion Securities, a stock brokerage house in Toronto. Wiggins' book was published in 1970 by his company, The Silent Press.

Deaf Canadians — An Insight, by Martin M. Goldstein. This 102-page paperback focuses on 22 deaf Canadians (15 men and seven women) who have become leaders in a variety of areas. Through these biographical entries, the reader can receive a brief glimpse into the vitality and perseverance of deaf Canadians and their contributions to Canadian society. Goldstein (b. Dec. 7, 1948) attended the following Montréal schools: Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (1952-1962), West Hill High School (1962-1967), and Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) (B.A., 1967-1971). He received a master of arts in counselling of the deaf from Gallaudet College in 1975. Goldstein worked as dean of residence at the Alberta School for the Deaf (1975-1981). He also taught a self-contained classroom of deaf students at Queen Elizabeth High School in Calgary, Alta. (1981-1991). In 1976, he married Karyn Ann Rosner (b. Jan. 2, 1951) of Franklin Square, N.Y., a Gallaudet alumna (B.Sc., 1969-1974) and teacher of elementary-aged deaf children. Since 1991, the couple have been teaching at the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton, Ont. They have two children, one of whom is deaf. Goldstein's book, *Deaf Canadians — An Insight*, was published in 1990 by Cal/Oka Printing Ltd., Calgary, Alta.

Deafie's World. A Personal Record: What It Means to be Deaf by Carl Brown. This small book is one deaf man's view of what it is like to be a deaf person. In 18 pages, Brown discusses such topics as identity, behaviour, language, culture, education, employment, technology, and family interaction. Brown (b. Jan. 26, 1968), a native of New Brunswick, was born profoundly deaf. When he was very young, he attended the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst, N.S. (1970-1972), but most of his education was received in public schools in Fredericton, N.B. Brown wrote his book at the age of 21. It

was published by the University of New Brunswick, Extension Department, Fredericton, N.B., 1989. He is one of a few deaf skydivers in Canada. (See Chapter 16: HOBBIES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES, "Skydiving.")

Can't Your Child Hear? by Roger D. Freeman (hearing), Clifton F. Carbin, and Robert J. Boese (hearing). Published in 1981, this 340-page paperback introduces parents of deaf children to what was then considered the most up-to-date information on dealing with the communication and educational challenges inherent in having a deaf child. A compassionately written resource guide to a variety of opinions and experiences of raising a deaf child, the book focuses on the philosophy of total communication in the home and school environments, with an emphasis on American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and Deaf role models. *Can't Your Child Hear?* was published by University Park Press of Baltimore, Md. (publication rights now owned by Pro-Ed of Austin, Tex.), and has also been translated into Dutch/Flemish (*Døve Børn*, 1984), Danish (*Als je kind niet horen kan*, 1987), Icelandic (*Hvad er Heyrnarleysi?*, 1988), and Czech (*Tvé Dítě Neslyší?*, 1991).

Langue des Signes Québécois-I, by Paul Bourcier (hearing), Raymond Dewar, and Julie Elaine Roy. Published by the Association des Sourds du Montréal-Métropolitain (ASMM), this large-size paperback book (1981) contains illustrations of a variety of LSQ signs used by the francophone Deaf community in the province of Québec. The 800 illustrations were done by Jacinthe Meunier, a deaf arts student at Polyvalente Lucien Pagé in Montréal. Bourcier, an experienced LSQ interpreter, was at one time vice-president of the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC). Dewar (b. Dec. 29, 1952; d. Oct. 27, 1983) was a 1971 graduate of the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets in Montréal. Roy (b. Nov. 21, 1948) had attended the Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes (1955-1964), a private high school where she also learned English; the Mackay Center in Montréal (1968-1969); Gallaudet College (B.A. in History, 1973); and Western Maryland College (M.Ed., 1975). At the time of the book's publication, the three authors were working as teachers in the deaf department of the Polyvalente Lucien Pagé C.E.C.M. in Montréal. The next year the trio published *Cours de Signes LSQ-I* and *Cours de Signes LSQ-II*, lesson plans for teaching LSQ.

Langue des Signes Québécois-I, with its line drawings, explanations, and variety of exercises, is believed to be the first Canadian-produced sign language textbook. In 1985, Roy and Bourcier published *La Langue des Signes (LSQ)*, a sign language text divided into categories (such as "the family," "verbs," and "transportation"). A total of 1,700 photographs illustrate the signs in this 238-page book.

A Deaf Artist's Trail by Forrest C. Nickerson. In the foreword to his 80-page paperback book, Nickerson states that "this little book ... is based on my experience of more than thirty years in all types of art work. The book covers nature and historic illustrations, water-colour paintings, commercial art, and cartoons."⁷⁶ It also contains a brief autobiography and photographs of the artist, along with more than 200 pen-and-ink drawings and coloured illustrations. The book was published in 1982 by D.W. Friesen & Sons Ltd., Altona, Man.

Silent Observer, written and illustrated by Christy MacKinnon. This delightful children's book is the true story of the author herself (b. Oct. 28, 1889; d. Mar. 17, 1981), who became deaf at the age of two following a bout of whooping cough. The book traces her childhood years in Boisdale, Cape Breton Island, N.S. and concludes with a description of her first year at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax (1900-1908), where she later taught art as an adult (1920-1928). After her 1928 wedding to John Maxcy, a deaf printer from New York, she moved to that state, where she worked for F.A.O. Schwarz as an illustrator. The Maxcys retired to Sutton Mills, N.H. in 1948. After her husband's death on October 24, 1952, she moved to Natick, Mass. to live with her sister, Sadie (who had become hard of hearing during the same whooping cough epidemic that caused MacKinnon's deafness). The year after her death, Maxcy's hearing niece (Inez MacKinnon Simeone) found her aunt's manuscripts and original art work, along with a handwritten request that if her story were ever published, it should be called "Silent Observer." Simeone honoured this simple request and brought the story of this deaf woman to the public. Sadly, Simeone died shortly before *Silent Observer* was published in 1993 by Breton Books, Wreck Cove, N.S.

Coaching Deaf Athletes, edited by Jo-Anne Robinson and David A. Stewart. This 71-page, spiral-bound manual was a project of the Coaching Association of Canada, Canadian Deaf Sports Association Coaching Committee. The manual was designed to provide hearing coaches with practical information that might help them better coach deaf team members. The book introduces such concepts as "what's so special about coaching the deaf?" and points out that "the only distinction between a deaf and a hearing athlete is in their methods of communication."⁷⁷ The book also addresses such areas as basic techniques for effective coaching, lists records and tryout standings of deaf athletes in various sports, and uses clear photographs to introduce basic signs that might be used by hearing coaches to communicate with deaf people they are coaching. The book was published in 1987 by the Canadian Deaf Sports Association, Ottawa, Ontario. It is also available in French.

Deaf Sport: The Impact of Sports Within the Deaf Community was written by a Canadian, David A. Stewart, currently an associate professor at Michigan State University in Lansing. The 234-page, hardbound book covers such topics as "Deaf Sport — Portrait of a Deaf Community," "Psychological Implications of Deaf Sport," "Deaf in a Hearing World: Quest for Equity," "The Educational Implications of Deaf Sport," and "Future Directions for Deaf Sport." Stewart includes information on

some of the sports opportunities that deaf people themselves have created. He looks at these athletic events from a sociological point of view, examining the influences various sports have on the Deaf community and the development of individual deaf people. The book was published in 1991 by Gallaudet University Press.

Our Stories was written by the students in the deaf and hard of hearing class at the T.R. Léger Alternative School in Cornwall, Ont., as their contribution to International Literacy Year (1990). Published in 1991, the booklet contains 12 short paragraphs written by the students. It starts with a dedication that reads: "To All Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults who continually strive to protect their Culture and Beautiful Language, portraying to the hearing world, 'THE TRUE MEANING OF DETERMINATION'," and ends with a "thank you to all deaf and hard of hearing adults for their support and encouragement."⁷⁸

Deaf People Are Just Like You. But ... was compiled by the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf in May 1994. This 25-page booklet briefly describes the "language, the culture and the people who are proud to call themselves 'Deaf'."⁷⁹ It is designed to educate hearing readers who may not know about Deaf people and the Deaf community in Canada. Topics include Deaf culture, bilingual/bicultural education, interpreters, myths about Deaf people, and technical aids used by members of the Deaf community.

You and Your Deaf Child (1994) was developed by members of the Ontario Association of the Deaf and the Ontario Cultural Society, with input from other deaf and hearing professionals. The handbook is designed to introduce hearing parents of newly diagnosed deaf children to the Deaf community's perspectives. Sensitively written with the parents' needs and concerns in mind, the handbook discusses such topics as Deaf culture, psycho-social needs of deaf children, American Sign Language, educational placement, technology, and other issues of interest to families with deaf children.

Deaf Heritage in Canada, by Clifton Francis Carbin. You are now holding one of the most recent additions to the literary contributions of Deaf Canadians. This document, a project of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, was published in 1996 by McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited of Toronto, Ont. Years of meticulous research went into its creation. But this book represents only the tip of the iceberg as far as the lives and contributions of deaf Canadians are concerned. It is hoped that *Deaf Heritage in Canada* will inspire future researchers to dig further and uncover even more treasures currently buried in the (almost) lost history of Canada's deaf people.